



Christmas, celebrated by most Christians on December 25, commemorates the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Americans, like many of the world's peoples, have developed their own Christmas traditions and observances, and these have changed greatly over time. Today, most Americans blend religious and secular customs with their own family traditions.



[Remarks by the President at Lighting of the National Christmas Tree](#)

(White House)

President Obama speaks before the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse.

Christmas Resources



[The Christmas Tradition In America](#)

(State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs)

As with so many aspects of U.S. cultural life, Christmas in the United States reflects the values of a free and diverse people.



[Federal Holiday: Christmas Day](#)

(State Department's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs)

Christmas is a joyful holiday of Christian origin that is recognized by many people in the United States. It is celebrated on December 25.



[Christmas Comes to the White House](#)

(State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs)

The Christmas season has officially arrived at the White House in the form of a six-meter balsam fir tree.



[It's Getting Easier to Track Santa and His Sleigh](#)

(State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs)

When Santa climbs into his sleigh on Christmas Eve, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) will be tracking his movements until the very last present is delivered. This is the 56th year NORAD, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, has followed "Big Red" around the globe.



[Who Knew? Many of Santa's Helpers Work at State Department](#)

(State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs)

U.S. diplomacy isn't the only thing on the minds of State Department employees during the holiday season. That's the time of year when they support in a big way the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's annual drive to collect new toys for needy children.

Photo Gallery [Source: Whitehouse.gov]



[From the Archives: First Families Celebrate the Holidays at the White House](#)



[Holidays at the White House](#)

Videos [Source: Whitehouse.gov]



[Shine, Give, Share: Honoring Military Families for the Holidays](#)

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Go inside the White House and the Naval Observatory, the official residence for the Vice President, for the holiday season as we honor military families and their service to our nation.